



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICE

500 WEST TEMPLE STREET  
493 HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

JON W. FULLINWIDER  
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

TELEPHONE: (213) 974-2008  
FACSIMILE: (213) 633-4733

November 19, 2002

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZATION TO USE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FUNDS FOR  
VARIOUS DEPARTMENTAL TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS  
(3 VOTES)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

- (1) Approve and authorize the use of \$100,000 from the Information Technology Fund (ITF) to support a joint project proposed by the District Attorney (DA), Sheriff's, and Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), for implementation of the Suspected Child Abuse Reporting System (SCARS).
- (2) Approve and authorize the use of \$1,277,024 from the Information Technology Fund (ITF) to upgrade the Emergency Management Information System (EMIS) maintained by the Office of Emergency Management.
- (3) Approve and authorize an Appropriation Adjustment transferring \$518,000 from Services and Supplies to Fixed Assets to purchase hardware costs for the EMIS Project.

**PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

In their October 21, 2002 meeting, the ITF Executive Committee recommended support of two department projects: (1) a joint project proposed by the DA, Sheriff and DCFS for implementation of Suspected Child Abuse Reporting System, and (2) a project proposed by the Chief Administrative Office/Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to rewrite and upgrade EMIS.

Your Board's approval of the recommended actions will provide funding in the amount of \$100,000, to the DA, and \$1,277,074, to the OEM.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The SCARS Project, as proposed by the DA, Sheriff and DCFS, aligns with County Strategic Plan Goal 5.0, Children's and Families Well-Being, by facilitating the exchange of information to County and Local Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) where child abuse or harm is suspected. SCARS also supports County Strategic Plan Goal 3.0, Organizational Effectiveness, by implementing a system designed to ensure that service delivery systems (transmission of SCARS data) are effective and efficient.

The EMIS project, as proposed by the OEM, supports the County Strategic Plan Goal 3.0, Organizational Effectiveness, by ensuring emergency management systems have the more current technology to improve the County's responsiveness and decision-making in emergency situations.

### **JUSTIFICATION**

In October 2002, the ITF Executive Committee recommended Board support of two (2) department technology projects.

### **SCARS**

The first recommended action provides funding in the amount of \$100,000 for a SCARS Implementation, proposed by an inter-agency team. The DCFS currently receives over 100,000 allegation calls each year. The California Department of Justice has a preprinted form that is required to be cross-reported between child welfare agencies in every instance of alleged child physical or sexual abuse (SCAR form). Currently, this form is faxed or mailed from DCFS to the DA, which does not provide for the most efficient mode of SCAR form transmission. This project implements a mechanism to electronically submit the SCAR form from the DCFS hotline to LEA responsible for investigating potential criminal activity.

### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (EMIS)**

The second recommended action provides funding in the amount of \$1,277,074, to rewrite and upgrade the EMIS. The current system was developed in 1990 and can no longer accommodate the technical requirements necessary to upgrade the system. EMIS has been greatly modified to try and meet the needs of the County, but further modifications are either not possible with current architecture or extremely costly. Other problems with the OEM's efforts to maintain the old system include low availability, difficulty in customizing the system, and the expense to customize/maintain.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Upon approval by your Board, \$100,000 and \$1,277,024 will be awarded from the ITF to support the SCARS inter-agency team and the CAO/OEM. Monies awarded for the projects cover hardware, software, and professional services costs. The attached Appropriation Adjustment reflects a budgetary transfer from Services and Supplies to Fixed Assets to cover EMIS hardware costs.

Sufficient funding is provided in the 02-03 Budget. There is no other fiscal impact.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONAL/LEGAL REQUIREMENT**

The SCARS implementation complies with Penal Code Section 11166, et seq., for the timely cross reporting of all child abuse and sexual abuse allegations between law enforcement agencies.

There are no other legal requirements.

### **IMPACT OF CURRENT SERVICES**

#### **SCARS**

Development of this web-based system allows DCFS to e-mail completed forms to the Sheriff's Data Network (SDN). The form is then routed to the LEA and DA's office. In Fiscal Year 1998-99, the Sheriff received an ITF grant to design the initial SCAR system. This supplemental phase covers programming, testing, pilot, and multi-agency implementation for the SCARS. Following are the proposed benefits of this project:

- Fulfills the County of Los Angeles' Board of Supervisors inquiry in January 2001, regarding an automated information sharing system to report alleged child abuse.
- Brings together over 50 different LEA into a single information sharing system.
- Reduces the amount of time lost by faxing and mailing SCAR forms between agencies.
- Speeds up the criminal investigation process by enhancing the speed of SCAR transmission, and may allow for a quicker recovery of physical evidence what could have been delayed or lost with longer transmission times.
- Allows for statistical inquiries and historical searches for repeat offenders.

This project covers Phase I of the SCARS implementation. The first phase involves the reporting from DCFS. Future phases will involve expanding system capabilities to address allegations made directly to LEA via 911 or in-person.

## **EMIS**

ITF funds for the OEM will provide resources to upgrade EMIS to improve the automation, collection and processing of emergency related information. The OEM plans to convert the existing SUN UNIX/Oracle Platform to WINTEL/SQL Server, and rewrite the EMIS application using .Net software.

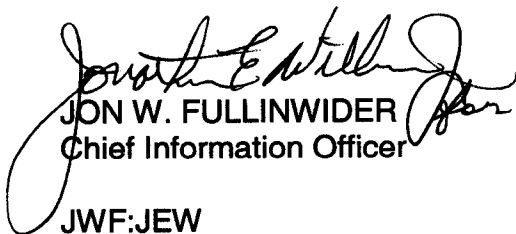
Upgrading the platform provides the following benefits:

- Higher availability.
- Enhanced messaging components.
- Reduced reliance on outside contractors.
- Ease of maintaining/upgrading.
- Increased data storage capacity.
- Reduction in maintenance costs by 65% over a five-year period.

## **CONCLUSION**

Your Board's approval of the recommended actions will authorize the use of ITF funds in the amount of \$100,000 to the DA/Sheriff/DCFS inter-agency team, and \$1,277,074 to the CAO/OEM.

Respectfully submitted,



JON W. FULLINWIDER  
Chief Information Officer

JWF:JEW  
YD:ygd

Attachment

c: Steve Cooley, District Attorney  
Lee Baca, Sheriff  
David Janssen, Chief Administrative Office  
Lloyd Pellman, County Counsel  
Marjorie Kelly, Children and Family Services  
Bob Garrett, CAO/Office of Emergency Management  
Roaul Freeman, ISC  
CAO Budget Analysts

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENTDEPT'S. 080  
No.

DEPARTMENT OF Chief Information Office

10/31/2002 To

## AUDITOR-CONTROLLER.

THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT IS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THIS DEPARTMENT. WILL YOU PLEASE REPORT AS TO ACCOUNTING AND AVAILABLE BALANCES AND FORWARD TO THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR HIS RECOMMENDATION OR ACTION.

## ADJUSTMENT REQUESTED AND REASONS THEREFOR

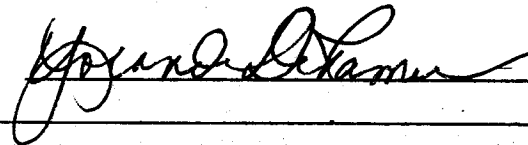
APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT

(3-Votes)

SOURCESInformation Technology Fund  
Services & Supplies  
B16-IO-40033-2000  
\$518,000USESInformation Technology Fund  
Fixed Assets  
B16-IO-40033-6030  
\$518,000JUSTIFICATION

This appropriation adjustment covers the cost of procuring fixed asset hardware to upgrade the County's Emergency Management Information System, which is currently being maintained by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). The OEM received an Information Technology Fund grant for this initiative in October 2002. The equipment ~~to~~ to be purchased is under the category of Computer Information and Data Processing Systems.

Cty 10/31/02



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

REFERRED TO THE CHIEF  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR—

ACTION

APPROVED AS REQUESTED ✓

AS REVISED

RECOMMENDATION

October 31 2002

Robert L. Lamm  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER BY

BY

Cominifer  
OCT-31 2002APPROVED (AS REVISED):  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

19

No.

82

BY

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK

SEND 6 COPIES TO THE AUDITOR-CONTROLLER